

the heat developed will moulder them down into a much more comminuted state than any mechanical means can do; the larger the heap the more powerful the action, and a slight covering of earth, mixed, if you will, with plaster, will aid in retaining any ammonia that may be evolved. In clays, where potash is not often required, common soil may take the place of the ashes. In this Province of Quebec, until the price of artificial manures is lowered considerably, it is vain to look for their general employment."

Some Rocky Farms Excellent for Fruit.

Every farmer should study the adaptability of his soil and endeavor to so manage his land as to obtain the largest profitable return from it. Not all farms are good grass land, but yet, some one must own them, and they must do the best they can with them. Some farms are so full of rocks that it is impossible to cultivate more than small portions of them, yet the soil may be of the best quality, and excellent for the growth of apple-trees. In New England there are large areas where the land is so rocky that the farm seems almost valueless, except for pastures, and yet apple-trees thrive remarkably well on them. A tree only needs to get a start and it is sure to make a good thrifty growth. Numbers of trees are seen springing up by the roadside and in pastures, so that quite large orchards will be met with which have sprung up in this way. A man in Winthrop, Maine, had one of these hard, stony farms. He noticed that Roxbury Russets thrived remarkably well on his farm, and about thirty years ago he began to set out apple-trees and graft them to Roxbury Russets. He has kept on setting the trees, till now he has about thirty acres in orchards, and his annual sales of fruit amount to about \$2000 or upwards per year. Now, that rocky farm of his is just as profitable as the best of farms free from weeds in his section. The same thing might be done with many other rocky farms. Set them to apple-trees, care for the trees and await the coming harvest. In this way some of the most rocky and forbidding looking farms could be made very profitable.

Give the Boys a Chance.

Martin Parvin writes the *Ohio Farmer* of a farmer who gave his boy the use of a quarter of an acre. The boy was wide-awake and set it to strawberries; in two years he owned two acres; and now, three years from the beginning, he owns five acres of land, and last season he cleared \$500 above all expenses on strawberries alone. It is a pity that more farmers do not give their boys a chance to follow their bent in farm management. If he likes stock-raising, give him a few sheep or cattle; if gardening or grain suits him, let him have a piece of land for his own use, and don't, for pity's sake, after he has his produce ready for market, sell it for him and pocket the money; for if you do, ten to one, your boy will be filled with an ambition to figure behind a counter or study law or medicine, or go into some other business where a dozen are waiting for an opening, while millions of acres are being slowly but surely robbed of their fertility for want of just such men as these bright boys will make to handle them skillfully.

Education.

According to Ruskin, an educated man ought to know these things: First, where he is—that is to say, what sort of a world he has got into; how large it is, what kind of creatures live in it, and how; what it is made of, and what may be made of it. Secondly, where he is going—that is to say, what chances or reports there are of any other world besides this; what seems to be the nature of that other world. Thirdly, what he had best do under the circumstances—that is to say, what kind of faculties he possesses; what are the present state and wants of mankind; what is his place in society; and what are the readiest means in his power of attaining happiness and diffusing it. The man who knows these things, and who has his will so subdued in the learning of them that he is ready to do what he knows he ought, is an educated man; and the man who knows them not is uneducated, though he could talk all the tongues of Babel.

Make Pork from Young Animals.

It is most profitable to make pork from young pigs. A bushel of corn will produce more pounds of increase in weight when fed to a pig three months old. The cost of producing a given weight of pork increases with the age of the animal. If it is desirous to produce an increase of one ton of pork by feeding one hundred swine, that increase will be more cheaply obtained by feeding pigs under six months of age than by feeding those which are a year old, or older ones. The man who allows his young pigs to have a scanty allowance of food permits the opportunity for profitable feeding to slip by, and is obliged to produce his pork at an increased cost by feeding when the swine are older.

The Maine Farmer.

This old and much honored agricultural journal (one of the oldest in America, now in its fifty-second year) has been enlarged by the addition of one column to the page, with a proportional lengthening of the others. At the same time (Dr. Lapham having withdrawn), it comes under the editorial charge of Z. A. Gilbert, secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture, an experienced farmer, dairyman and fruit-grower, and an able and sagacious writer. There can be no doubt that under Mr. Gilbert's control the *Farmer* will sustain and increase its already solid reputation, and will continue to be what it has long been, one of the best and most successful of agricultural journals.

Bone and Ashes.

Mr. Jenner Fust of the *Montreal Journal of Agriculture*, an old and well experienced farmer on both sides of the Atlantic, after quoting some remarks of ours upon the relative value of superphosphate and ground bones, says in the *Journal*:

"There is very little difference of opinion among practical men as to the relative values of phosphoric acid in a soluble and insoluble state, provided always that the crystalline form of phosphate of lime (apatite) be excluded altogether; apatite, as I have often shown, is useless unless dissolved. For top-dressing grain-crops, for forcing the young turnips out of the way of the fly, common sense would advise the use of a rapidly available manure—superphosphate; in all other cases, finely ground bones, coprolites, or the other softer forms of mineral phosphates, will answer all purposes. I am happy to see that Dr. Hopkins in the above article on fertilizers, shares my opinion as to the propriety of treating raw bones with moistened ashes. In this case, it will not be found necessary to grind the bones very fine, as

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